

DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council (ASDAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2016

Members Present: Representative Catherine Abercrombie, Judy Dowd, Ruth Eren, Ann Gionet, Bill Halsey, Beth Leslie, Jim Loomis, Sara Lourie, Kathy Marchione, Aileen McKenna, John Molteni, Yana Razumnaya, Lynn Ricci, Nikki Richer, Deputy Commissioner Jordan Scheff

Others Present: Siobhan Morgan, Kathy Bruni

Members Absent: Wendy Campbell, Marcia Eckerd, Zachary Laudano, Isabelina Rodriguez, Lois Rosenwald, Carole Ryan-Hanlon, Robert Shea, Dorian Vicedomini

Call to Order: 1:33pm

Welcome and Introduction by Representative Abercrombie and Bill Halsey

No Public Comment

Review and Approval of Minutes from 6/22/2016: Motion to approve by Lynn Ricci, seconded by Beth Leslie.

Discussion of Proposed By-laws:

- DSS will review the by-laws and propose technical modifications which can then be considered and approved by the committee. Some considerations modifying DDS references to DSS
- As the bylaws were distributed at the meeting, proposed edits from Committee members are welcome

Discussed need for additional Co-Chair and asked for proposals from the Council:

- An email to be sent with a description of what would be expected
- Suggestion to nominate an advocate/community member
- Email proposed nominations to Bill Halsey

2017 Meeting Dates:

- January 18, 2017 at 10:00am
- April 19, 2017 at 10:00am
- July 19, 2017 at 10:00am
- October 18, 2017 at 10:00am
- Representative Abercrombie offered to make reservations for rooms

Autism Division Updates by Kathy Bruni - DSS:

- Autism Division transitioned from DDS to DSS on July 1, 2016 including 8 staff – 1 Case Manager Supervisor, 3 Case Managers, 2 Resource Specialists, 1 Administrative Assistant and Program Manager position (currently vacant)
- Update on Program Manager Position. Vacant position has been posted and interview process will begin. (In search of candidate with clinical expertise in autism)
- Early Childhood Autism Waiver – no longer accepting new applications, current children will continue receiving services until they age-off the waiver
- Challenges with contracts/billing are being resolved
- Autism staff physically moved to DSS on October 14, 2016

Medicaid State Plan Update by Bill Halsey:

- Beacon Health Options - authorizing providers for Medicaid state plan
- Currently, there are 72 providers enrolled in network
 - 46 of 72 – Direct Service
 - Evaluation Providers
 - Treatment Providers
 - Looking to enroll more treatment providers
- Expanded services in July
 - Developed Program book – individualized plan of care created by provider for families to utilize at home
 - Direct observation and direction –licensed or BCBA in attendance
 - Social skills building group
- Issues with workforce development
- Recommended amendment of regulations modifying criteria for technicians

Feasibility Study Update/Discussion:

- Training
- Discussion of utilizing feasibility study money to develop a “child development outreach line”
- Discussion of cultivating RBTs – Registered Behavior Technicians – regulations, criteria

Discussion of new sub-committees:

- Decision to keep the following:
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Employment – creating culture for ASD individuals
 - Training – workforce development in the community

Lynn Ricci – Hospital for Special Care update:

- 25 admissions
- Average stay 30-45 days
- All discharges successful except 1

- 1 child returned because services were not available
- Average age is 12
- HSC out-patient services have grown
- Built classroom
- 8 beds open now that classroom project is complete
- John Molteni conducted staff training. To date there has been very little turnover.

Presentations by Dorian Vicedomini and Lynn Ricci at the January 18, 2017 meeting

No New Business

Motion to adjourn: Representative Abercrombie, seconded by Deputy Commissioner Jordan Scheff

Adjournment: 3:01pm

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, January 18, 2017**

All meetings are held at:
Legislative Office Building
Room 2A